

1. A ferrule adapted for use in a feeding tube formed from flexible material comprising:

a wall formed from a hard substantially non-deformable material which defines a conduit extending along a central axis between an inlet opening and an outlet opening, the wall having a slot, wherein the slot is configured to receive a protrusion of a connector and releasably interlock the ferrule and connector;

a first surface defined by a first region of the wall which is inclined relative to the central axis so as to be dimensioned as a first luer; and

a second surface defined by a second region of the wall which is inclined relative to the central axis so as to be dimensioned as a second luer;

wherein the first surface and the second surface are adapted for engagement with a portion of the connector.

2. The ferrule of claim 1 further including a third surface defined by a third region of the wall which is inclined relative to the central axis so as to be dimensioned as a third luer, wherein the third surface is adapted for engagement with a portion of the connector.

3. The ferrule of claim 1 wherein the slot in the wall has a first portion and a second portion, the first portion of the slot generally being in parallel to the central axis, the second portion of the slot being intersecting with the first portion of the slot.

4. The ferrule of claim 3 wherein the second portion of the slot is tapered at least in part.

5. The ferrule of claim 1 wherein the wall has a width and the slot extends across the width of the wall.

6. The ferrule of claim 1 wherein the wall has a width and the slot extends across a portion of the width of the wall.

7. The ferrule of claim 1 wherein the slot is generally L-shaped.

8. The ferrule of claim 1 wherein the slot is generally T-shaped.

9. The ferrule of claim 1 wherein the ferrule has an end surface and wherein at least a portion of the slot extends through at least a portion of the end surface.
10. The ferrule of claim 1 wherein the first region of the wall defines a first segment of the conduit which has a diameter that decreases with increasing distance from the inlet opening.
11. The ferrule of claim 1 wherein the second region of the wall defines a second segment of the conduit which has a diameter that decreases with increasing distance from the inlet opening.
12. The ferrule of claim 1 wherein the first region of the wall forms a generally annular shape about the central axis, and the second region of the wall forms a generally annular shape about the central axis.
13. The ferrule of claim 1 wherein the first surface and the second surface are aligned along the central axis of the conduit; and the first surface is disposed closer to the inlet opening than the second surface.
14. The ferrule of claim 1 further comprises a gripping member for gripping the feeding tube.
15. The ferrule of claim 14 wherein the gripping member includes at least two outwardly extending annular ribs.
16. The ferrule of claim 1 further including a sealing member configured to assist in maintaining the position of a connector relative to the ferrule.
17. The ferrule of claim 1 wherein the sealing member is at least in part an elastomeric material.
18. A ferrule comprising:
a wall formed from a hard substantially nondeformable material which defines a conduit extending along a central axis between an inlet opening and an outlet opening,

the wall having a slot, wherein the slot is configured to receive a protrusion of a connector and releasably interlock the ferrule and connector;

a first surface defined by a first region of the wall which is inclined relative to the central axis so as to be dimensioned as a first luer; and

a second surface defined by a second region of the wall which is inclined relative to the central axis so as to be dimensioned as a second luer;

wherein the first region of the wall defines a first segment of the conduit which has a diameter that decreases with increasing distance from the inlet opening;

wherein the second region of the wall defines a second segment of the conduit which has a diameter that decreases with increasing distance from the inlet opening; and

wherein the first surface and the second surface are adapted for engagement with a portion of the connector.

19. The ferrule of claim 18 further including a third surface defined by a third region of the wall which is inclined relative to the central axis so as to be dimensioned as a third luer; wherein the third region of the wall defines a third segment of the conduit which has a diameter that decreases with increasing distance from the inlet opening.

20. The ferrule of claim 18 wherein the first surface is a taper lock surface and wherein the second surface is a taper lock surface.

21. The ferrule of claim 18 wherein the first surface is disposed closer to the inlet opening than the second surface and the second surface is disposed closer to the inlet opening than the third surface.

22. The ferrule of claim 18 further including gripping member for gripping the feeding tube.

23. The ferrule of claim 22 wherein the gripping member includes at least two outwardly extending annular ribs.

24. A ferrule adapted for use in a feeding tube comprising:

a wall formed from a hard substantially non-deformable material which defines a conduit extending along a central axis between an inlet opening and an outlet opening, the wall having at least one slot, each of the slots having at least two portions;

the slot being configured to receive a protrusion of a connector and releasably interlock the ferrule and connector.

25. The ferrule of claim 24 wherein one of the portions of each of the slots is generally parallel to the central axis.

26. The ferrule of claim 24 wherein at least a portion of at least one segment of the conduit is inclined relative to the central axis so as to enable a friction fit with a portion of a connector.

27. The ferrule of claim 24 further including a sealing member wherein the sealing member is configured to assist in maintaining the position of a connector relative to the ferrule.

28. The ferrule of claim 24 wherein the sealing member is at least in part an elastomeric material.

29. A feeding device comprising:

an elongated tube formed from a flexible material;

an inlet end portion formed from the flexible material and integrally connected to the elongated tube and defining an inlet port opening; and

a ferrule disposed within the inlet end portion the ferrule including a wall formed from a hard substantially non-deformable material which defines a conduit extending along a central axis between an inlet opening and an outlet opening, the wall having a slot, wherein the slot is configured to receive a protrusion of a connector and releasably interlock the ferrule and connector;

a first surface defined by a first region of the wall which is inclined relative to the central axis so as to be dimensioned as a first luer; and

a second surface defined by a second region of the wall which is inclined relative to the central axis so as to be dimensioned as a second luer;

wherein the first surface and the second surface are adapted for engagement with a portion of the connector.

30. The feeding device of claim 29 wherein the ferrule further includes gripping member for gripping the inlet end portion.
31. The feeding device of claim 29 further including a third surface defined by a third region of the wall which is inclined relative to the central axis so as to be dimensioned as a third luer.
32. The feeding device of claim 29 wherein:
the first region of the wall defines a first segment of the conduit which has a diameter that decreases with increasing distance from the inlet opening; and
the second region of the wall defines a second segment of the conduit which has a diameter that decreases with increasing distance from the inlet opening.
33. The feeding device of claim 24 wherein the first region of the wall forms a generally annular shape about the central axis; and the second region of the wall forms a generally annular shape about the central axis.
34. A feeding device comprising:
an elongated tube formed from a flexible material;
an inlet end portion formed from the flexible material and integrally connected to the elongated tube and defining an inlet port opening; and
a ferrule disposed within the inlet end portion the ferrule including,
a wall formed from a hard substantially non-deformable material which defines a conduit extending along a central axis between an inlet opening and an outlet opening, the wall having at least one slot, each of the slots having at least two portions;
the slot being configured to receive a protrusion of a connector and releasably interlock the ferrule and connector.